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Letter dated 12 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the declaration, issued on 7 April 1993, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria in connection with the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Slavi PASHOVSKI
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Declaration issued on 7 April 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in connection with the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its grave concern at the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria considers the NPT as a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime with respect to nuclear weapons. The wide membership of the NPT is an indication of the great importance that the international community attaches to this legally binding instrument being of vital importance for international security. The concerted actions to strengthen the non-proliferation regime are one of the major avenues of the efforts to eliminate the potential danger to peace and stability stemming from the spread of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction. The strict and unconditional implementation of the NPT and of the respective International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements under the Treaty is a basic prerequisite for ensuring the viability and the stabilizing role of the non-proliferation regime. Any development that contravenes these collective efforts would inevitably produce a negative effect.

In this context, the decision of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the NPT is a cause of serious concern and justified anxiety within the international community. The step taken may have unpredictable consequences not only for regional security but also for international peace and security as a whole.

As a member of the IAEA Board of Governors, the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its full confidence in and support for the activities of the Agency, including its inspection procedures, as well as the resolutions of the Board of Governors of 25 February, 18 March and 1 April 1993, which refer the issue to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its obligations under the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards Agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria associates itself entirely with the Declaration of 1 April 1993 of the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, which are the depositaries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria calls upon the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue its dialogue with IAEA, rendering the necessary assistance to the Agency for the purpose of the implementation of the provisions of the Safeguards Agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its hope that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will reconsider its decision and will continue to adhere to its legal international obligations under the NPT and to follow strictly the provisions of the Safeguards Agreement of IAEA.